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*Myths and legends of the Mississippi valley and the great lakes.* Selected and edited by Katherine B. Judson. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company, 1914. 215 p. \$1.50 net)

It is quite evident — and the statement does not imply adverse criticism — that this book has been compiled for the generality of readers rather than for scholarly specialists. The collection contains one hundred and two myths and legends of the Winnebago, Wyandot, Ojibwa, Menominee, Ottawa, and other tribes. On the whole, the pieces have been chosen with discrimination. Comparison with some of Miss Judson's sources reveals the fact that she has withstood successfully the temptation to amplify and embroider the legends. She has, moreover, given them literary form — despite the statement that she has made no effort to make the legends "literary" or to give them "literary charm" — as she had a right to do for the audience she is manifestly serving. But in all cases, so far as there has been opportunity to judge, Miss Judson has rendered the pieces faithfully, and some of them with facility and charm. She has, for the most part, drawn from Albert E. Jenks, James Mooney, Catlin, and Schoolcraft, and general acknowledgment of this indebtedness is made. The printed source of each legend, however, should have been given. And, too, Miss Judson could have added to the value of her book by indicating as well the earlier narratives of western travelers in which Indian legends of the region appear. This would not have encumbered the work, nor lessened its interest for the general reader, and it would have greatly increased its value to those who are more seriously concerned with legendary history — a most engaging subject. The volume contains twelve half-tone illustrations from bureau of American ethnology *Reports*.

JOHN THOMAS LEE

*The true Ulysses S. Grant.* By Charles King, brigadier general U. S. V., 1898-1899. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1914. 400 p. \$2 00 net)

This book was written, so the author tells us in the preface, "in the belief that there were virtues in the true Grant to which full prominence had not been given" and because "there came the desire to write of our great commander as he seemed to one of the least of these his subalterns."

Many have praised the military genius of the silent commander; many have condemned his shortcomings as a civil administrator; but none has given a complete and accurate view of the less-known characteristics of Grant, the man. General King has been skilful in his portrayal of these virtues, and has written with the enthusiastic approbation of one who is thoroughly convinced of the greatness of his theme.

The first part of the work tells of Grant's boyhood on the Ohio farm,

the years at West Point, the Mexican war, and the dreary years just before the opening of the civil war. During his stay at the military academy it appears that young "Sam" Grant displayed few soldierly instincts, preferring the life of the farm to that of the camp. He had accepted the appointment only at the order of his father. Negligence in dress, carelessness in the observance of the fine points of military etiquette, and a lack of enthusiasm in scholastic pursuits, except in mathematics, all seemed to point to an early termination of his career as a soldier. In the Mexican war, however, he gave unmistakable evidence that he was a far more efficient practical soldier than he had been a book soldier, and he served throughout the war with distinction.

The years from the close of the Mexican war to the opening of the civil war were the most barren and disheartening of his whole career. In 1852 he was ordered to the Pacific coast, and the fact that he was compelled to leave his family behind made him despondent and he fell into evil ways. So depressing was the situation that he resigned his commission and returned to St. Louis, arriving there practically penniless. For some years he labored to make a living for his family, first at farming and later by dealing in real estate, but misfortune seemed to pursue him. In 1860 he went to Galena and took a humble position as clerk in a leather store owned by his brothers. He was not a success in this work, and father and brothers all looked upon him as the family failure. Few of the townspeople paid any attention to the taciturn, poorly dressed clerk who seemed more anxious to avoid company than to make acquaintances. It was at this time that Grant almost lost faith in himself.

Over one-third of the book is devoted to the history of these early years and to the assertion that Grant was neither an unknown nor an untried man before the outbreak of the civil war. The pages are crowded with incidents to show that the ability, strength of character, and steadfastness of purpose displayed by the conqueror of Pemberton and Lee, although dormant in the Galena clerk, had already manifested themselves in the lieutenant who won his brevet of captain "for gallant conduct at Chapultepec."

The second part of the work deals with Grant's career during the civil war. His consummate military skill is praised, his campaigns are analyzed, and as the author follows him from Donelson to Vicksburg and from Vicksburg to Appomattox he piles up evidence to prove beyond doubt that the modest captain from the hills of northwestern Illinois may rightfully lay claim to the distinction of being America's greatest soldier. Neither the ill-concealed jealousy of the slow-thinking and over-cautious Halleck, the opposition of the soldierly McClelland, the dis-

trust of the suspicious Stanton, nor the wails of the politicians who fought the nation's battles from the vantage points of city offices and country stores could block his progress although they annoyed him and endangered the cause of the union.

While the emphasis is laid upon his military achievements we are not allowed to lose sight of other attributes which do not show so clearly to one unacquainted with the true Grant. "Aye, soldier, statesman, loyal citizen he was and yet more, for in purity of life, in love of home and wife and children, in integrity unchallenged, in truth and honor unblemished, in manner simplicity itself — though ever coupled with that quiet dignity that made him a peer among the princes of the earth — in speech so clean that oath or execration never soiled his lips, unswerving in his faith, a martyr to his friendships, merciful to the fallen, magnanimous to the foe, magnificent in self-discipline, was he not also, in all that the grand old name implies, Grant — the gentleman?" This is the Grant that General King sees.

The author has done a generous and a just thing in according to General Rawlins a measure of the praise due that sterling man. Neither his intense admiration for Grant nor his desire to put Grant's services in the most favorable light possible have caused him to overlook, or even to minimize the services rendered by Rawlins to Grant and the union. Of the chief of staff he says: "It is doubtful if even in all the array of brilliant minds and brainy men with whom he was later surrounded . . . Grant ever attached to his person a stancher staff officer, or in every sense a truer friend, than that Galena lawyer, John A. Rawlins." He endeavors to give Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and the other northern leaders their just dues; but those union men who sought by one method or another to overthrow Grant or to withdraw from him honors fairly won he treats with small sympathy. To the southern commanders, particularly to Robert E. Lee, he yields the praise which a soldier must needs render to an honorable foe.

The last part of the book is the least satisfactory. This is probably due to the fact that few of the sources from which the author has gleaned his material extend beyond the close of the war. Those which cover the later period do not furnish the intimate information concerning Grant, the man, which can be gathered from the writings of his comrades. As it is, less than seventy pages are given to the years after the war, and of these only twenty are devoted to the eight years of Grant's presidency — less than the space accorded to cadet days, the curriculum and professors at West Point. Among certain classes of people, at least, the idea prevails that Grant, the soldier, did not appear to the same advantage as a civil administrator as he did when leading the northern legions. If the

author is of the same opinion, he has done a kindly act in touching lightly the years when his commander walked in unfamiliar paths. But if we are to know the true Grant we should be allowed to see him at this time also. A real service could have been rendered by analyzing the mass of conflicting testimony which has clouded this period, and by drawing therefrom the truth concerning the scandals which marred the administration. Even though such an investigation might disclose the fact that errors had been committed by the nation's chief, it would never lead posterity to doubt his integrity, nor to pass any but the most charitable judgment upon the modest soldier who joined hands with the immortal Lincoln that government of the people, by the people, and for the people might not perish from the earth.

The book will appeal to the general reader more than to the specialist. There are no footnotes to guide one who may wish to follow some particular point through the sources. The only bibliography is the brief one given in the preface, but much of the material the author used is not to be found in print. The illustrations are in most cases taken from originals. The index is satisfactory.

WILLIAM V. POOLEY

*John Hay, author and statesman.* By Lorenzo Sears. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1914. 150 p. \$1.00 net)

John Hay deserves better treatment than he receives in this book, which contains no facts that a Washington newspaper correspondent could not have furnished off-hand, and is marred by a note of indiscriminate eulogy. The importance of the work that Hay performed at St. James and in the cabinet is obscured by overpraise. He came out of the middle west with that generation that acquired a comprehensive Americanism in the melting-pot of the Illinois frontier. He lacked any tinge of sectionalism, and was cosmopolitan in the best sense of the word. He would have been distinguished as an author had not his services to diplomacy given him higher rank in a different field. But Mr. Sears has failed to give any critical description or estimate of his work, and does not seem to have used that mass of Hay manuscripts that Mr. W. R. Thayer has recently exploited in *Harper's Magazine*. The book appears to have been published because Hay was an alumnus of Brown University, but it is in no sense worthy of its subject or its alma mater.

*Recollections of full years.* By Mrs. William Howard Taft. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1914. 395 p. \$3.50 net)

Mrs. William Howard Taft has had an interesting life and knows it. Her reminiscences are filled with evidence, conscious and unconscious,